

highest rating available. He's established thoughtful standards for county purchases and has provided superb oversight for \$1 billion in capital projects. Central Texas is better because of his leadership and hard work.

David's commitment to excellence doesn't stop when the work day ends. He has been a trustee for the Texas County and District Retirement System and is a past president for the Texas Association of County Auditors. David shouldered the demanding responsibilities as the Chairman of the Investment Committee for the Texas Association of Counties from 2008 to 2012. Over the years, he's deservedly received numerous awards and commendations as well as the admiration of his peers and colleagues.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I heartily salute David Flores' work and contributions to his community. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish him the best in both his retirement and all his future endeavors.

#### HONORING DENNIS R. LEBER OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my constituent, Dennis R. Leber, on his pending retirement upon more than 17 years of combined service with the United States House of Representatives and the United States Air Force.

Mr. Leber began his career as an Air Force telecommunications specialist, then spent several decades in the private sector communications and networking industry. Upon completion of his private sector career, Mr. Leber served two years as a contractor with the U.S. House of Representatives and House Information Resources (HIR) Group, where he completes his professional career this December, upon 11 years of service as a Senior Network Systems Engineer in this august institution.

Mr. Leber's dedication and professionalism touched the lives of many people and challenged all with whom he served to be the best. His presence and dedication will be missed, but we wish him well and Godspeed in his future adventures.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate Dennis R. Leber upon his retirement and thank him for his tireless service to the citizens of the United States of America.

#### IN HONOR OF MAJOR TOOLE

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Major Travis N. Toole for his dedication to duty and service as an Army Officer. In 2014, Travis was selected to be an Army Congressional Fellow in my office. His portfolio included working with Team Monterey, all the Department of Defense entities located in

Monterey, CA. Team Monterey includes the Defense Language Institute and the Naval Postgraduate School, Guard and Reserve facilities, SATCOM, and nine other critical DoD and Navy missions all located in Monterey, after the closure of the former Fort Ord.

Major Toole staffed me for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and brought his expertise as an Engineer to the portfolio that led to significant accomplishments. He was instrumental in working the halls of the Pentagon on behalf of the California National Guard to secure funding for a bridge replacement, a number one priority of the Guard for several years. His diligence to constituent services enabled him to help a local transit provider navigate the Army bureaucracy for ultimate payment of transit services. He was well respected by the Military Construction Appropriations staff for his contributions to the Subcommittee hearings and markup.

When Travis returned to the Pentagon as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison, he worked closely with the House and Senate Military Constructions Appropriations Subcommittees, ensuring Army's budget positions were extremely well represented and articulated to the Committees. He assisted the Subcommittee staff with their oversight responsibilities in Korea, Japan and many CONUS facilities, and accompanied Members visiting Afghanistan during the Christmas holiday.

The next step for Major Toole will be further military education at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Major Toole was commissioned as an Engineer officer after his graduation from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He has subsequently earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University. He has served in a broad range of assignments during his Army career. Major Toole's previous assignments include serving as a Mobility Support Platoon Leader for the 562nd Engineer Company, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, and a Sapper Platoon Leader and Executive Officer for the 73rd Engineer Company, 1st Brigade 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

He then served as a Current Operations Officer for the 130th Engineer Brigade and commanded the 34th Sapper Company, 65th Engineer Battalion at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Travis has led Soldiers in combat as a Platoon Leader, Battalion Operations Officer, and Company Commander while deployed in direct support of combat operations in Iraq on three separate occasions.

Throughout his distinguished Army career, Travis has positively affected his Soldiers, peers, and superiors. His extraordinary leadership, thoughtful judgment, and exemplary work have made our country safer. On behalf of a grateful nation, I commend Major Travis Toole for his service to our nation and wish him all the best as he continues his journey in the United States Army.

HONORING ADDISON RUSSELL FOR ADDISON RUSSELL DAY AT PACE HIGH SCHOOL IN PACE, FLORIDA

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Addison Russell for his incredible athletic talent and honor him for Addison Russell Day at Pace High School. His natural ability to lead by example both on and off the field has distinguished him among his peers and built the foundation for his successful career.

Born and raised in Pace, Florida, Russell began his freshman year at Pace High School in 2009 where he became the 5th freshman in the school's history to play on the varsity baseball team. In 2010, he led Pace High School to a class 5A Florida High School Athletic Association baseball state championship and again as runner-up in 2012. In 2011, Russell was selected to be a member of the USA Baseball 18U National Team at the COPABE 18U/AAA Pan American Games. Russell hit a grand slam in the Championship game against Team Canada, allowing his team to take home the gold medal and Russell to be named at the First-Team All-Tournament as Shortstop.

Upon graduating from high school, Russell was drafted by the Oakland Athletics with the 11th overall pick of the first round in the 2012 Major League Baseball Draft. He was then traded to the Chicago Cubs on July 4, 2014 and on April 21, 2015 Russell made his major league debut against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Russell represented the Cubs in the 2016 Major League Baseball All-Star Game as the starting shortstop for the National League. Then, during game six of the 2016 World Series, Addison hit the 19th grand slam in the history of the Series and also tied the Major League Baseball record for six RBIs by one player in a game on a team facing elimination from the fall classic.

Mr. Speaker, Northwest Florida is proud to honor Addison Russell on November 29, 2016 with Addison Russell Day at Pace High School. My wife Vicki and I extend Russell, wife, Melissa; and children, Aiden and Mila; our best wishes for their continued success.

CELEBRATING THE 9TH ANNUAL LAKESHORE CLASSIC BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and respect that I recognize the Gary Chamber of Commerce as the organization celebrates the 9th annual Lakeshore Classic Basketball Invitational. In observance of this special event, the Gary Chamber of Commerce hosted a celebratory corporate luncheon at the Diamond Center in Gary, Indiana, on Monday, November 21, 2016, followed by the basketball invitational at West Side Leadership Academy on Friday, November 25 and Saturday, November 26, 2016.

The theme for this year's Lakeshore Classic is "Step Up for Education," which emphasizes

the importance of combining athletics, academics, and the significant role of teachers, parents, coaches, and community leaders in the educational processes. To enhance this vision, the Gary Chamber of Commerce chose David J. Johns, Executive Director for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans, as a guest speaker for the corporate luncheon. This initiative works with federal agencies and partners nationwide to improve the range of educational programs for African Americans. David is not only passionate about empowering youth and conducting research to improve the perception of African American males, he is also heavily committed to educational improvement in the African American community. Through his passion and tireless contributions to education, Mr. Johns has proven to be an extraordinary advocate and example to all youth and is an inspiration to us all.

At this time, I would like to recognize the schools who participated in the Lakeshore Classic basketball tournament. These teams are dedicated to achieving academic excellence and to demonstrating exceptional sportsmanship. The participating teams include the Gary West Side Lady Cougars, Gary West Side Cougars, John Marshall Lady Commandos, John Marshall Commandos, East Chicago Central Cardinals, Thea Bowman Eagles, Charles A. Tindley Tigers, and the Griffith Panthers.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you to join me in recognizing the Gary Chamber of Commerce, as well as the organizers and sponsors of the 9th annual Lakeshore Classic. Their leadership, enthusiasm, and dedication to our youth and Northwest Indiana is worthy of the highest praise.

#### RECOGNIZING PEACH TREE HEALTH ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peach Tree Health for its 25 years of providing quality and affordable healthcare to medically underserved communities in the 3rd District of California.

Peach Tree Health is a federally qualified health center and an independent non-profit corporation based in Marysville, California. It has successfully extended its services throughout three counties within the 3rd District without sacrificing its core values of compassion, integrity, excellence, and cooperation in providing care for almost 30,000 patients.

In August, Peach Tree Health opened its first clinic in Sacramento County, launching a unique vision care service designed to maximize access to any child regardless of their family's ability to pay. In 2017, Peach Tree Health will be opening a comprehensive Pediatric Center in Yuba City, California, that will offer health and dental services.

The Department of Health and Human Services recently awarded Peach Tree Health a federal grant that will allow it to enhance its health information technology, further enhancing the quality of care it provides.

Congratulations to Peach Tree Health on this important milestone and its continued work offering personalized health services at affordable rates. Its services are of great importance to communities throughout the 3rd District and I look forward to working with them in the future.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF PICATINNY ARSENAL'S STEM PROGRAM

#### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education program developed by the United States Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey.

This STEM Educational Outreach Program supports public and private schools, colleges and universities, and professional development training throughout the state of New Jersey. Participants of the program have the opportunity to visit with exceptional engineers and scientists in their laboratories, gain funding for their student robotics teams and sponsorship for student competitions, and benefit from the creation of new instructional materials. Approximately 200 Picatinny scientists and engineers have volunteered to support STEM education by making over 1000 classroom visits, staffing over 100 educational field trips to Picatinny Arsenal's laboratories, participating in the annual "Introduce a Girl to Engineering" Open House, assisting nearly 800 teachers, and inspiring 50,000 students in over 400 schools, including many throughout the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey.

This program has been developed to inspire students and educators through fresh and stimulating classroom activities in all avenues of STEM education. It has been custom tailored to meet the specific needs of individual schools using cutting edge technologies that are critical in order to compete in this current employment market. On behalf of the New Jersey youth, I am humbled to see such dedication from ARDEC's staff and professionals who are dedicated to transferring their knowledge of emerging technologies in STEM and look forward to the next generation of scientists and engineers from NJ-10.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL SIMONOFF

#### HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Michael Scott Simonoff—a beloved husband, father, and son—who passed away following a motorcycle accident on Wednesday, November 9, 2016.

Michael was born in 1967 to Jerome and Carol Simonoff in New York and spent his formative years in Plainview, Long Island. He graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 1985 and attended the University of Denver

where he received a Bachelor's of Science in Accounting and a CPA license. He went on to earn a law degree from Whittier Law School in Southern California in 1998.

While Michael is recognized for his business acumen, he was also extraordinarily generous with his time and resources. He started his own firm, the Simonoff Group that provided office services, consulting, and bookkeeping to businesses. As a member of the California State Bar, Michael also used his legal expertise to negotiate complex real estate deals.

His ceaseless generosity is manifested in his final act of goodness. Michael donated his organs to ensure others in need could have the gift of life. His family hopes this beautiful gift will allow others to live their lives to the fullest and extend Michael's free and beautiful spirit.

Michael is survived by his wife, Elayne Howitt, and two sons, Joel Simonoff and Sam Simonoff and two stepsons Adam Howitt and Josh Howitt of Encino, California. He also leaves behind his parents Jerome and Carol Simonoff of Marina Del Rey, California, his brother Zachary Simonoff, sister-in-law Lisa Swenski of Lorain, Ohio, his sister Rachael Wexler, brother-in-law Eric Wexler as well as his niece Amanda Wexler and nephew Harrison (Harry) Wexler of Pacific Palisades, California. He is survived by many good friends and extended family.

A funeral was held for Michael on Sunday November 13, 2016 at the Mount Sinai Cemetery. In the spirit of Michael's generosity, the Simonoff family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to charities of their choice. I wish Michael's family nothing but peace and solace as they mourn the loss of a cherished husband, father, and son. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Michael Simonoff's beautiful life.

#### HONORING THE LATE DR. LUNA ISAAC MISHOE

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Luna Isaac Mishoe, former President of Delaware State College and a veteran of World War II. Revered as a mentor, guide, and instructor, Dr. Mishoe was a symbol of hope for many young African American individuals.

One of America's most distinguished mathematicians and physicists, Dr. Mishoe was only the 17th African American in this country to earn a Ph.D. in Mathematics. Indeed, Dr. Mishoe was a very well educated man: he held a Bachelor of Science Degree in mathematics and chemistry from Allen University, a Master of Science Degree in mathematics and physics from the University of Michigan, and a Doctor of Philosophy in mathematics from New York University, as well as a year of post-doctoral research in mathematics at Oxford University. And, at the age of 63, while serving as President of Delaware State, Dr. Mishoe graduated once again, this time with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting and Business Administration, and a Master of Business Administration Degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. His tenacious desire to pursue his education is truly inspiring.